Finishing races becoming more important

By DOUG FERBER
for The Signal

With the racing season almost two-thirds complete at Saugus Speedway, drivers are becoming more and more concerned with finishing races rather than just winning.

Unfortunately, driving with caution doesn't always mean finishing.

Case in point: Shannon Flavin of Granada Hills, looking to pick up some crucial points Saturday in the hobby stock division, suffered two non-contact car problems that left him pointless for the evening. Flavin's car stopped in its tracks with an electrical problem in a heat race and then blew a tire in the main event.

On the other hand, Russ Beckers of Sepulveda scored with ease, wasting no time in taking the lead in the 25-lap street stock oval main event. Starting on the outside of row one, Beckers took charge in lap two and held off Rick Crow of Canyon Country through the final 23 laps for his fourth main event win of the season before 1,929 fans.

Beckers, fourth in the street stock point standings heading into the night, also picked up some crucial points earlier in the evening with a trophy dash win and second in the Street Stock 15-lap figure-eight.

The hobby stock oval 25-lap main event saw one driver after another pull off the track with assorted car problems. That wasn't the case for Larry Leis of Cas-, who took the lead in lap eight after starting in the th position, earning the checkered flag going away. was the first main event win of the season for Leis, h in the track's point standings heading into the ht.

Last season, Leis, a 48 year-old rookie, took the Sau- hobby stock championship while winning only one e. Leis was also voted the track's hobby stock "rookie driver of the year". Leis attributes his success last season to his ability to finish races and accumulate points.

"It's been a bad year for us this year," Leis said.

In the 15-lap jalopy oval main event, Russ Wolff of Mission Hills started on the outside of row four well behind pole sitter Dale Rhyne of Sylmar. Wolff slowly overtook the field until finally pulling ahead on the 11th lap and held on for the win.

Hector Cruz from Sun Valley finished Joe Barreras Jr. of Canyon Country took figure-8 hobby stock main event.

In the trophy dashes, Craig Rayburn of won the street stock figure-8; Barreras took hobby stock dash; Burbank's Scott Wad checkered in the figure-8 hobby stock das Aguilar of Sun Valley captured the jalop dash.

Photo by Rich

Two racers lead the pack during the first Street Stock heat during Saturday's Saugus Sp card. Tom Eurton (behind car 52) wound up winning the race.